West Lancashire Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1898.

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1899.

West Lancashire Rural District Council, 1898.

Chairman ... ... Rev. R. C. Fletcher, J.P., C.A.

Vice-Chairman ... Henry Underwood.

Ainsdale...	Geo. Fred. Greaves.
Altcar	Rev. Wm. Warburton
Aughton...	Henry Underwood.
,, ...	Jas. M. Woods.
Bickerstaffe	John Hurst.
Bispham	Lawrence Ashcroft.
Downhollond	Thomas Sumner.
Formby	Rev. Wilfrid Carr
,, ...	Edward Sutton.
Halsall	Richard Aspinwall.
Hesketh	Robert Deacon.
Lydiate	John Forrest.
Maghull...	John Pimbley,
Melling	Joshua Cropper.
North Meols	Wm. Blundell.
Rufford	Richard Yates.
Scarisbrick	Evan Heaton.
,, ...	Henry Holman.
Simonswood	Wm. Mercer.
Tarleton	Rev. R. C. Fletcher

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the West Lancashire Rural District Council.

JANUARY 26th, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

We have pleasure in laying before you the Annual Report for the year 1898.

Dr. Herbert Peck, who was your Medical Officer of Health for six and a half years, sent in his resignation to you in September, in consequence of his election to the same position under the Rural District Council of Chesterfield. On November 3rd you elected Dr. Geo. E. Scholefield to succeed him. Of the Report laid before you Dr. Peck is responsible for the time he was your Medical Officer, and Dr. Scholefield for the remainder of the year.

Much work has been done during the year, the most important perhaps, being the laying on of a water supply to Melling by the St. Helens Corporation, the opening of the Aughton sewage works, and the sewering of a part of Bickerstaffe.

Population.—The number of Inhabited Houses at the end of the year was 5,260, being 12 more than at the end of 1897, and 410 more than when the census was taken in 1891, at which time the District contained 4,850 Inhabited Houses, occupied by 25,684 persons. Ainsdale had 7 more houses than at the end of the previous year, Bispham 2, Formby 3, Melling 22, North Meols 10, Rufford 1, Tarleton 17. Hesketh remained stationary, while Altcar had 1 less, Aughton 10, Bickerstaffe 17, Downholland 2,

Halsall 2, Lydiate 8, Maghull 5, Scarisbrick 4, and Simonswood 1. Calculating on these facts, the **Population** is estimated to have been at the middle of 1898 about **27,541**, including 280 inmates of Public Institutions.

Birth Rate.—Six hundred and fifty-three Births were registered as having occurred in the District, 344 of Males and 309 of Females, and one child was born in Ormskirk Workhouse, whose parents belonged to Rufford. These 653 Births are equal to a **Birth Rate** of **23·71** per 1000 of population, which is 2·31 below that of the previous year, and considerably below that of 28·53, the average of the ten years ending 1897. Nine, or nearly 1·4 per cent., were illegitimate.

Death Rate.—Three hundred and eighty-two Deaths were registered, 208 Males and 174 Females, but 18 occurred in Public Institutions and 10 were of other strangers. Of these latter, 1 died in the camp at Altcar, in Bickerstaffe 1 was drowned, in Formby 1 was a body washed up by the sea, and 1 was a visitor whose death was caused by Phthisis Pulmonalis, in Maghull 3 were killed on the railway, in Melling a girl was killed while cycling and a woman was drowned, in Scarisbrick a man was run over. The subtraction of these, and the addition of the deaths of 11 men and 1 woman in Ormskirk Workhouse, leaves 366 Deaths, 202 Males and 164 Females, as the correct number, which is equal to a **Death Rate** of **13·29** per 1000. This is less than that of 1897, which was 15·22, and lower than the average of the previous ten years, which was 15·3.

Zymotic Death Rate.—Thirty-one Deaths were caused by the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, 1 being due to Scarlet Fever, 4 to Diphtheria, 6 to Enteric Fever, 5 to Measles, 6 to Whooping Cough, and 9 to Diarrhœa. These are equal to a **Zymotic Death Rate** of **1·12** per 1000, which is slightly less than that of the previous year, and also slightly less than the average of the last ten years.

Infant Mortality.—The number of Deaths of Children under one year was 80, equal to an **Infant Mortality Rate** of **118** per 1000 Births, which is considerably less than that of 158 in 1897, and almost exactly equal to the average of the ten previous years.

The following Table compares the above Rates with those of England and Wales, and with some of those for the Administrative County of Lancaster.

DEATH AND OTHER RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, LANCASHIRE, AND THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 living.	Death-rate per 1,000 living.	Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 living.	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	29·4	17·6	2·22	161
Rural England and Wales...	28·7	16·7	1·75	145
Lancashire	...	15·8	1·01*	...
Urban Lancashire	...	16·4	...	...
Rural Lancashire	...	13·4	...	...
West Lancashire Rural District	23·71	13·29	1·12	118

* Excluding deaths from Diarrhœa, which are included in the other Zymotic Death-rates.

The Death-rate from **Phthisis Pulmonalis,** or Consumption, was **·87** per 1000, which is well below the average of 1·26 for the preceding ten years. That from **Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy** was **1·96,** also well below the average, which is 2·81. The rate from **Influenza** was **·29,** which is below the average of ·38 for the eight years ending 1897. Thirty-seven of the Deaths were certified as being from **Old Age,** equal to a rate of **1·37,** and form nearly 10½ per cent. of the total deaths.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS OF THE TOWNSHIPS COMPRISED IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT.

1898.	Acreage.	Population estimated to middle of 1898.	Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1898.	Public Houses & Beerhouses.	Birth-Rate per 1000 living.	Average of previous ten years.	Death-Rate per 1000 living.	Average of previous ten years.	Zymotic Death-rate per 1000 living.	Average of previous ten years.	Infant Mortality per 1000 Births.	Average of Previous ten years.
AINSDALE	1,192	1,272	301	1	22·79	28·24	7·07	13·68	·78	·85	3·45	90·6
ALTCAR	4,083	561	93	1	17·82	24·27	3·56	14·92	1·78	1·01	—	72
AUGHTON	4,610	3,658	699	13	28·70	29·74	14·22	14·78	·8	1·55	92	117·9
BICKERSTAFFE	6,444	2,098	367	1	28·59	32·74	19·54	15·63	2·46	1·01	147	107·7
BISPHAM	926	275	60	2	40·0	20·69	29·09	18·82	—	·39	200	77·5
DOWNHOLLAND	3,473	782	140	4	19·18	32·32	5·11	14·24	—	1·67	43·5	106·6
FORMBY	5,427	5,642	1,015	9	19·32	27·71	11·16	12·79	·53	·87	85·5	99·2
HALSALL	6,995	1,353	250	2	21·69	26·08	8·66	16·79	·72	1·0	29	169·4
HESKETH	4,736	949	200	2	23·18	36·7	16·86	16·5	4·21	1·58	192	121·8
LYDIATE	1,995	1,143	217	3	23·62	26·73	15·26	14·86	2·69	·89	148	97·1
MAGHULL	2,098	1,525	284	10	26·88	23·15	15·74	13·39	1·3	·69	154	152·5
MELLING	2,118	1,023	186	4	22·26	29·05	13·55	17·38	·96	1·05	182	146·3
NORTH MEOLS	4,802	1,827	380	1	31·04	36·94	17·51	17·34	1·08	1·19	158	134
RUFFORD	3,120	802	162	2	24·94	27·35	18·7	16·56	2·48	2·22	222	142
SCARISBRICK	8,397	2,330	436	5	20·17	26·9	12·02	14·9	·86	1·72	124	104
SIMONSWOOD	2,645	438	67	2	11·41	22·66	6·85	16·84	—	2·14	200	217 7
TARLETON	5,553	1,853	403	3	24·23	31·07	14·03	18·41	·54	1·84	146	154
West Lancashire Rural District	68,614	27,541	5,260	65	23·71	28·53	13·29	15·3	1·12	1·24	118	118·2

N.B.—The estimated populations are calculated upon the numbers of Inhabited Houses.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT FROM 1886 TO 1898.

The Rates for the years before 1891 have been carefully corrected according to the Census of that year.

	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Mean of 10 years, 1888to 1897.	Mean of England & Wales, 1887 to 1896.
Estimated Population	24,618	24,840	25,063	25,287	25,514	25,742	25,973	26,206	26,640	27,000	27,520	27,513	27,541		
Birth Rate, per 1000 living	33·63	32·48	30·88	31·55	28·29	29·05	28·79	29·91	27·36	27·44	26·02	26·02	23·71	28·53	30·68
Death Rate	16·81	17·19	14·88	15·93	15·05	15·42	15·74	17·66	15·84	15·48	11·88	15·12	13·14	15·3	18·56
Zymotic Death Rate	·97	1·52	·91	1·45	1·95	1·01	·57	1·5	1·57	1·52	·69	1·27	1·12	1·24	2·6
Smallpox	...	..	·04	...	..	...	...	...	·03	...	...	...	...	·007	·017
Measles	·24	·32	·038	·16	·78	...	·077	·15	·3	·18	·07	·18	·18	·193	·45
Scarlet Fever	·2	·36	·16	·19	·19	·19	·12	·30	·41	·15	·14	·25	·03	·21	·21
Diphtheria	·04	·12	·12	·31	·7	·12	...	·15	·15	·41	·03	·03	·14	·20	·22
Whooping Cough	·24	·08	·28	·43	·12	·27	·008	·04	·26	·15	·14	·47	·21	·217	·41
Typhus Fever	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	·004
Enteric Fever	·12	·08	·16	*·16	·08	·23	·15	·3	·22	·29	·14	·07	·21	·18	·17
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	...	·56	·12	·19	·12	·19	·15	·57	·18	·33	·11	·25	·43	·22	·61
Croup	·24	·12	·28	·19	...	·08	...	...	...	...	·03	...	·07	·058	·08
Erysipelas	·04	...	...	·19	·04	·04	..	·12	...	·11	·03	...	·07	·053	·05
Influenza	...	...	...	...	·12	·69	·57	·38	·22	·44	·14	·47	·29	·303	·23
Puerperal Fever	·04	·08	·04	...	...	..	·15	·15	...	·07	...	...	·03	·031	·07
Rheumatic Fever	·12	·04	·04	·08	...	·12	...	·12	·07	·07	·07	·07	·01	·064	·08
Pulmonary Phthisis	1·25	1·49	1·51	1·45	1·25	1·28	1·50	1·45	1·4	1.11	·72	·9	·872	1·26	1·5
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy	3·29	3·46	2·79	2·52	2·86	3·14	3·54	2·97	2·8	2·66	2·36	2·5	1·96	2·81	3·29
Cancer	·53	·36	·32	·51	·35	·35	·19	·53	·37	·55	·40	·36	·43	·393	·68
Violence, Accident, and Suicide	·69	·44	·39	·87	·66	·39	·42	·72	·75	·33	·40	·79	·32	·57	·64
Old Age	1·66	1·74	2·03	1·70	1·68	1·44	2·02	1·68	1·84	1·77	1·27	1·27	1·37	1·67	·93
Infant Mortality, per 1000 Births	119	107	86	132	107	106	123	127	122	123	98	158	118	118·2	148

* Including Continued Fever, ·04.

Table showing the number of Houses in each Township and the District known to be Infected during the year, and the numbers of Cases and Deaths.

1898.	Smallpox.			Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.			Fever, Enteric, and Continued.			Measles.			Whooping Cough.			Diarrhœa and Dysentery.			Erysipelas.			Puerperal Fever.			Totals.		
TOWNSHIP.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.
AINSDALE	...	..	...	2	2	..	...	...	...	4	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	.	...	...	...	..	...	..	6	6	1
ALTCAR	...	..	...	1	1	..	...	..	..	2	2	1	2	4	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	1
AUGHTON	...	...	.	5	5	.	4	4	1	3	3	1	3	6	..	2	5	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	1	1	20	26	4
BICKERSTAFFE	...	...	...	11	19	1	...	...	...	..	...	..	28	54	2	...	..	..	2	2	2	1	1	..	...	...	...	42	76	5
BISPHAM	...	...	..	4	8	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	..	..	..	..	4	8	0
DOWNHOLLAND	...	.	..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	..	...	...	...	.		3	3	1
FORMBY	...	...	...	5	6	...	5	6	1	7	11	2	1	2	...	1	2	...	1	1	1	2	2	...	..	...		22	30	4
HALSALL	...	..	...	...	..	...		..	.	3	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	3	3	1
HESKETH	...	.	...	...	...	..	1	1	1	...	...	.	...	...	...	2	3	3	.	...	.	..	...	...	...	...		3	4	4
LYDIATE	...	...	..	3	8	.	1	1	..	3	3	..	12	16	...	...	..	...	3	3	3	...	...	...	...	.	...	22	31	3
MAGHULL	...	...	.	3	5	...	1	1	1	1	1	.	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	6	8	2
MELLING	...	..	..	1	1	...	..	...	.	1	1	...	6	12	1	...	..	..	..	..	...	2	2	1	...	...	..	10	16	2
NORTH MEOLS	...	...	..	2	4	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	3	4	1	1	1	1	3	3	...	.	...	...	10	14	2
RUFFORD		...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	..	...	.	...	.	...	...	...	..	1	2	2
SCARISBRICK	..	...	..	2	3		4	4	...	...	.	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	2	2	2	3	3	1	..	...	...	13	15	4
SIMONSWOOD	...	..	...	1	1	..	1	1	1	..	...	...	...	...	.	..	...	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	...	..	.	2	2	~~0~~ 1
TARLETON	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	1	1	1
ST. ANNE'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, FORMBY	...	...	...	..	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	..	...	..	.	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	0	9	0
WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT	...	...	...	41	73	1	17	18	3	24	28	6	57	101	5	9	16	6	12	12	12	12	12	2	1	1	1	173	261	37 ~~38~~

Table showing the number of Cases of Infectious Disease which came to the knowledge of the Sanitary Authority during the years 1885 to 1898, and also the numbers of Houses infected & the Deaths that occurred.

	NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.																					NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.											
	Smallpox.			Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria and Croup.			Fever--Typhus, Enteric, and Continued.			Erysipelas.			Puerperal Fever.			Totals.			Measles.			Whooping Cough.			Diarrhœa and Dysentery.			Totals.		
	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.
1885.....	...	...	...	22	49	5	23	29	17	16	26	10	3	3	3	1	1	1	65	108	36	20	53	4	52	103	10	3	3	3	75	159	17
1886.....	...	...	...	36	62	5	9	9	8	6	8	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	53	81	18	229	495	7	48	118	7	1	1	1	278	614	15
1887.....	1	1	...	66	172	9	15	16	9	8	11	2	...	...	...	2	2	2	92	202	22	251	578	8	5	7	2	...	...	...	256	585	10
1888.....	1	2	1	20	31	4	18	22	10	12	16	4	1	1	...	1	1	1	53	73	20	26	68	1	28	61	7	1	1	...	54	130	8
1889.....	...	...	..	24	39	4	16	21	13	9	11	4	5	5	5	...	...	...	54	76	26	59	124	4	72	171	11	...	...	...	131	295	15
The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, came into force in the District on January 1st, 1890.																																	
1890.....	..	...	...	46	89	2	32	51	18	10	10	2	6	6	1	...	...	...	94	156	23	355	879	20	27	64	3	3	3	3	385	946	26
1891.....	...	...	...	44	84	5	20	25	6	15	18	6	6	6	1	1	1	...	86	134	18	5	13	...	48	114	7	5	5	5	58	132	12
1892.....	..	...	...	48	82	3	1	1	..	17	23	4	10	11	...	4	4	4	80	121	11	4	17	2	14	19	2	4	4	4	22	40	8
1893.. ...	5	10	...	81	161	8	14	15	6	47	56	8	17	18	3	3	3	2	167	263	27	122	211	4	4	7	1	14	15	15	140	233	20
1894.....	1	1	1	79	146	11	27	33	4	33	46	6	11	11	..	1	1	...	152	238	21	202	436	8	54	98	7	5	5	5	261	539	20
1895.....	...	...	...	98	176	4	28	41	11	24	25	8	13	13	3	5	5	3	168	260	29	88	160	5	15	21	4	9	9	9	112	190	18
1896.....	...	...	...	105	198	4	15	16	2	19	21	4	10	10	1	2	2	...	151	247	11	73	148	2	60	123	4	3	3	3	136	274	9
1897.....	...	...	...	83	157	7	15	19	1	19	21	2	9	9	...	2	2	...	128	208	10	210	395	5	123	210	13	6	7	7	340	614	25
1898.....	...	...	...	41	73	1	17	18	5	24	28	6	12	12	2	1	1	1	95	132	15	50	104	5	9	16	6	12	12	12	76	127	23

The figures for the years before 1894 differ from those given in reports previous to that year, inasmuch as they do not include the cases which occurred in Burscough.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The table on page 8 shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease that came to the knowledge of both Medical Officers of Health during the year, and the townships in which they occurred. The total number amounts to 260, or 566 less than the previous year. Reference to the table on page 9 will show that the difference is accounted for by three diseases, Scarlet Fever showing a decrease of 85, Measles of 295, and Whooping Cough of 194. Diphtheria and Puerperal Fever also showed a decrease of 1. Enteric or Typhoid Fever showed an increase of 7, Erysipelas of 3, and Diarrhœa of 2.

The following were notified by the Medical Attendants of the patients:—

Scarlet Fever	61
Scarlet Fever, after the cases had been discovered by inquiry	4
Diphtheria	18
Enteric Fever	27
Measles (not notifiable)	3
Erysipelas	9
Puerperal Fever	1

School teachers reported 1 case of Scarlet Fever, and 32 of Measles. The School Attendance Officers reported 1 case of Scarlet Fever, and 6 cases of Whooping Cough. The Registrars informed me of the various deaths as they occurred, their Special Returns being valuable, as giving at times the first intimation of infectious disease being in that particular locality. Clergymen reported 22 cases of Measles. Mr. Bond gave information of 2 cases of Measles, the parents of 6, and inquiries resulted in the discovery of 35. Inquiries also brought to light 1 case of Enteric Fever, 7 cases of Scarlet Fever (excluding the 4 mentioned above), and 5 cases of Whooping Cough.

COMPULSORY NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The table on page 9 shows the great value of compulsory notification. The number of cases coming to the knowledge of the Sanitary Authority, since the adoption of the Act, being many more than in the previous years, although there is no reason to suppose that the diseases are more prevalent, but rather the reverse. It also gives your Officers an opportunity of dealing with the diseases at the first outbreak, and in that way the spread of the disease has on many occasions been checked.

Whether it is advisable to include Measles or not is a question. Probably very little good would result, as the disease is very infectious in the early stages, before a medical man would be called in, even if the case were considered severe enough. The school teachers usually discover the cases the first outside the infected house, and they, in this district, usually report the case at once.

Whooping Cough is probably different, as the disease spreads more slowly, and the Medical Attendant is often called in sufficiently early for measures of isolation to be of benefit.

SMALLPOX.

Your late Medical Officer of Health remarks that no case of this loathsome disease has occurred in the district since 1894, when an unvaccinated person contracted the disease when from home and died at Formby. The only other fatal case of recent years occurred in 1888, and in this also the patient was unvaccinated. All the other cases on our record, which begins in 1885, and thus covers a period of fourteen years, were mild cases in vaccinated subjects, with the exception of one severe case in an unvaccinated person, who narrowly escaped with his life.

All persons who came in contact with the patients were promptly vaccinated or re-vaccinated, and the only instances in

which spreading took place after the recognition of the nature of the disease, was one in which an unvaccinated person (one of those mentioned above) entered a house in which there was a patient, and another in which an unvaccinated person was vaccinated with only partial success, after sleeping in the same room as a patient suffering from the disease.

Taken as a whole, the District may be considered as fairly well vaccinated, but recent retrograde legislation will infallibly result in the disease becoming more common, and in an increase of the number of cases entering the district. Therefore no time should be lost in preparing for the coming series of epidemics, and this can only be done by the provision of special hospital accommodation, either by yourselves alone, or in combination with other Authorities. This precaution is absolutely necessary, and should be taken at once, deliberately and in good time, and not neglected until a period of panic.

SCARLET FEVER.

HOUSES INFECTED, 41; CASES, 72; DEATHS, 1.

Two houses in Ainsdale were affected, each having one patient. In Altcar one house was affected, with one patient. Aughton had five houses, with five patients. Bickerstaffe had eleven houses, with nineteen cases and one death. Bispham had four houses, with eight cases. Downholland had one house, with one case. Formby had five houses, with six cases. Lydiate had three houses, with eight cases. Maghull had three houses, with five cases. Melling one house, with one case. North Meols two houses, with four cases. Scarisbrick two houses, with three cases. Simonswood one house, with one patient. St. Anne's Industrial School, Formby, had nine cases, The number of cases during the year has been smaller than in any year since the Infectious Diseases Notification Act was adopted, and very much smaller than in any of the last five years. At no time was there any decided epidemic, though ten of the cases in Bickerstaffe occurred within

a short time of each other, and the houses were a short distance apart. In Bispham four cases occurred in two houses near together. In Formby there were six cases, against twenty-one the previous year; three were in one house, advice as to removal to the Isolation Hospital of the first case being disregarded; removal to the Hospital apparently prevented the disease spreading in several instances.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

HOUSES INFECTED, 17; CASES, 18; DEATHS, 5.

A fatal case in Aughton probably contracted the disease in Liverpool, as she returned from a visit there with sore throat. Another case probably contracted the disease while working among "black manure" (town's refuse), as he commenced to be ill three days afterwards. The fatal case in Formby acquired the disease while at a party in another district; other children who were at the same party also suffered from the disease. Four others in Formby were living on premises that were in an insanitary state. The fatal case in Hesketh lived in a cottage surrounded by damp and insanitary conditions. In Maghull the fatal case lived on premises supplied with water from a well situated a very short distance from a defective pail closet. In Scarisbrick one of the cases had very bad sanitary surroundings the water supply from a well was very bad. In Simonswood there was no apparent cause for a fatal case. The other cases call for no special remark.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

HOUSES INFECTED, 24; CASES, 28; DEATHS, 6.

AINSDALE.

J. F., 7 years. Very insanitary surroundings, but Southport water. The patient was confined to the house for six weeks previously to taking ill.

T. S., 12 years. Sanitary surroundings; Southport water; no apparent cause.

A. F., 47 years. Fatal case. The premises on which the patient lived have been productive during the last six years of typhoid and other infectious diseases, and have frequently been dealt with by you. No lasting improvement can be made until the village is sewered. Southport water.

H. W., 3 years. Sanitary premises, supplied with Southport water.

ALTCAR.

Fatal case. W. D., 4 years 11 months. Lived on sanitary premises, supplied with good well water. No apparent cause for the disease.

W. J. H., 35 years. Lived on insanitary premises, supplied with water from a well. His daughter was also ill, but the Medical Attendant did not regard it as Typhoid Fever.

AUGHTON.

J. F. C., 40 years. The premises were in an insanitary condition, and were supplied with water from a well, since condemned. A quantity of "town's manure" was deposited near the house. The patient frequently visited the house where case J. H. C. occurred, and was believed to have contracted the disease while sitting with the patient.

A. P., 25 years. The premises were in an insanitary condition, and supplied with water from a well that has since been condemned.

E. P., 50 years. Sanitary premises; Southport water. The patient probably contracted the disease from the same cause as the last case, as she had been living for some time on the same premises.

FORMBY.

Fatal case. A. F., 35 years. Contracted the disease when from home. Sanitary surroundings; Southport water.

R. M., 13 years. Sanitary surroundings, and Southport water. No apparent cause for outbreak, but a sister had a similar illness six weeks previously, though she was not seen by a doctor.

E. M., 9 years. As last.

M. M., 7 years. As last.

J. M., 4 years. As last.

A. M., 38 years. Contracted the disease when nursing the previous four cases.

P. M., 5 years. Living next door to last case, on sanitary premises, supplied with Southport water. Was frequently taken into the sick room. A ditch opposite the houses has frequently been polluted with sewage during the last few years.

S. D., 4½ years. Contracted the disease when from home. Sanitary surroundings; Southport water.

S. G., 24 years. Patient had been staying in a country village shortly before the commencement of the illness. Premises sanitary, except the overflow pipe from the cistern, which was faulty. Southport water.

E. C., 35 years. Premises sanitary; Southport water; no apparent cause.

HALSALL.

M. R., 7 years. Contracted the disease from her brother, who came home suffering from Typhoid Fever contracted on a canal dredger near Wigan. Premises fairly sanitary, and Southport water. (See last year's report, case of J. R. T., and case J. L. following.)

C. A., 22 years. Surroundings insanitary, and water apparently bad.

W. C., 43 years. Lived on insanitary premises, supplied with Southport water.

LYDIATE.

J. L., 26 years. Worked on a canal dredger near Wigan, and came home when the illness began. Sanitary surroundings, and Southport water.

T. C., 15 years. No apparent cause.

J. L., 34 years. Lived on insanitary premises, supplied with water from a polluted well.

MAGHULL.

J. H. C., 4 years 11 months. Lived among sanitary surroundings; Southport water; no apparent cause.

MELLING.

J. T. P., 43 years. No discovered cause.

MEASLES.

HOUSES INFECTED, 57; CASES, 101; DEATHS, 5.

This disease was not so prevalent as in the preceding year, but nevertheless your late Medical Officer deemed it necessary to advise the closure of three schools owing to the prevalence of the disease among the children attending.

The Medical Officer of Health is very largely dependent upon the School Teachers and School Attendance Officers for information concerning any outbreak of this disease. Inquiry also brings to light many cases under school age, or if the school is closed.

In February an outbreak occurred in Lydiate, chiefly among the pupils attending St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School, and, after consultation with the school authorities, Dr. Peck advised the closure of the school. This had the desired effect, and the disease shortly disappeared.

In May some cases appeared in Bickerstaffe, and as the number rapidly increased, Dr. Peck advised closure of the National School from June 2nd to July 4th, after which no fresh cases were discovered.

An outbreak occurred in Melling at the end of June, and the National School was closed from July 4th to August 1st, which had the effect of stopping any further spread.

The other townships suffered very little, a few cases occurring in Altcar, Aughton, Formby, North Meols, Scarisbrick, and Tarleton, but at no time did it assume epidemic form, and no special measures were necessary to check the spread.

WHOOPING COUGH.

HOUSES INFECTED, 9; CASES, 16; DEATHS, 6.

This disease was much less prevalent than in the preceding year, but the number of deaths in proportion to the ascertained cases is very heavy. Four of the deaths were children under one year, an age at which this disease is very fatal.

DIARRHŒA.

HOUSES INFECTED, 12; CASES, 12; DEATHS, 12.

Infantile Diarrhœa was prevalent in autumn, and six of the deaths were in children under one year.

ERYSIPELAS.

HOUSES INFECTED, 12; CASES, 12; DEATHS, 2.

One case in Aughton and one in North Meols followed on external injuries, the others call for no special remark.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

HOUSES INFECTED, 1; CASE, 1; DEATH, 1.

ISOLATION AND DISINFECTION.

On the notification of any case of infectious disease the Medical Officer of Health visited the infected house, and endeavoured to trace the cause of the origin of the disease. In this way other cases have been brought to light, and much valuable information gained.

A copy of the "Rules and Regulations to be observed in the management of Infectious Diseases" is left at any house that is affected with smallpox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and enteric or typhoid fever. A copy is bound in at the end of this report. Disinfectants are supplied by the inspectors gratuitously; and in cases of typhoid fever a concentrated acid solution of perchloride of mercury, which when properly diluted has a strength of 1 in 960, is supplied by the Medical Officer of Health, and by Inspector Bond, of Formby.

At the termination of the illness, in order to carry out disinfection as efficiently as possible, the Hospital Steward, when requested, removes and disinfects articles at Holly House, and at the same time attends to the proper disinfection of the sick room.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Holly House, Aughton, converted from a country house to a hospital, affords accommodation for eight scarlet fever, and two enteric fever, patients, the former being effectively isolated from the latter. A "Thresh" Steam Disinfector is attached to the establishment, and there is also a Brougham Ambulance, and a Bedding Van. Four acres of land are leased with the house, and there is ample room for extension, when the Committee considers

it advisable. This provision is shared with the Lathom and Burscough Urban District Council, the cost of maintenance being apportioned according to the population of each district.

The arrangement with the Southport Corporation for the admission to their infectious hospital, situated in North Meols, of patients from the northern townships still holds good, and the Lathom and Burscough Council will bear a proportion of the cost of the maintenance of patients removed thereto.

Twenty-five patients have been admitted during the year to the hospital, twenty-three suffering from scarlet fever, and two from enteric fever. Of the scarlet fever patients, two were from Ainsdale, three from Aughton, eight from Bickerstaffe, seven from Formby, one from Melling, and two from the Lathom and Burscough District. Of the enteric fever patients one was from Altcar, and the other from Lydiate.

Mr. Andrews, the Steward, and Mrs. Andrews, the Matron, deserve a word of praise for the condition in which they keep the house and grounds.

The work of disinfection during the year which has been done by Mr. Andrews is as follows:—Twenty journeys with the ambulance, and sixty-five with the bedding van, thirty-four rooms disinfected in thirty-one houses; the disinfector was used seventy-nine times, and one thousand two hundred and ninety-one articles of bedding &c., were disinfected.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

Dr. Peck found it necessary to advise the closure of the schools named below on account of prevalence of infectious disease. The measure was followed in each case by a subsidence of the disease.

National School, Tarleton, closed from January 24th to January 31st on account of prevalence of Influenza.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School, Lydiate, closed from February 8th to March 1st on account of prevalence of Measles.

National School, Melling, closed from July 4th to August 1st on account of Measles.

National School, Bickerstaffe, closed from June 2nd to July 4th on account of Measles.

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN.

Where possible individual children from infected houses are forbidden to attend school, a certificate to that effect being sent to the school teacher. When it is deemed safe to admit the children to school again another certificate is sent to the school teacher, and a duplicate to the School Attendance Officer, informing them that sanction has been given to the children to resume attendance.

WATER SUPPLY.

The number of houses supplied by public service at the end of the year was 3885, or 73·8 per cent. of the whole, which represents an increase during the year of 449, or more than 8 per cent.

The Southport Water Company have extended their mains to the extent of 4,166 yards during the year, the lengths in each township being as follows:—Aughton 624 yards, Downholland 1463 yards, Formby 848 yards, Maghull 449 yards, Scarisbrick 782 yards. The Company contemplate laying mains in the following districts:—Riding's Lane, Banks; Bill's Lane, Formby; from Halsall Lane to North Moore Farm in Halsall; from Liverpool Road towards the Running Horses in Maghull; completion of the Dam Lane length, and extension at Snape Green; Birkdale Cop Road, by St. Mark's Church in Scarisbrick.

The main laid by Sir Thomas F. Hesketh from the Lathom and Burscough boundary to supply Rufford Village affords supplies to 24 houses.

In Tarleton 66 new connections were made, and in Hesketh 56

In Bickerstaffe, from the mains laid by the Earl of Derby, there have been 51 new connections made. The length of main laid by the Council in Melling is 13,380 yards, and the mains laid by the St. Helens Corporation to bring water into the township are about 2,100 yards in length, from the Kirkby pumping station to the meter at Melling. Supplies have been already given to 154 houses and farms from these mains.

The above mentioned extensions, made and contemplated, are indicated upon the map accompanying this report, and also the mains laid in previous years.*

* We wish to acknowledge, with thanks, the assistance rendered in the preparation of the maps by Messrs. Beeston, of Aughton; Ivy, of Ormskirk; Lackland, of St. Helens; J. Leslie, of Knowsley; Rofe, of Southport; and Wood and Brodie, of Liverpool.

HOUSES SUPPLIED BY PUBLIC SERVICE AT THE END OF 1898.

1897.	Lathom and Burscough Main.	Liverpool Corporation.	Ormskirk Urban District Council.	Preston Rural District Council.	St. Helens Corporation.	Skelmersdale Urban District Council.	Southport Water Company.	Totals.	Increase during the year.	Percentage of Inhabited Houses thus supplied.
Ainsdale	...	...	...	...	..	...	287	287	6	95·3
Altcar	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	–1	4·3
Aughton	...	...	65	...	...	...	567	632	4	90·3
Bickerstaffe	...	...	44	...	...	87	4	135	51	35·7
Downholland	...	...	...	...	...	...	95	95	8	68·4
Formby	...	...	...	...	...	...	973	973	48	97·1
Halsall	...	...	...	...	...	...	121	121	–1	48·4
Hesketh	...	...	...	168	...	...	1	169	56	84·5
Lydiate	...	...	...	...	...	...	124	124	15	57·1
Maghull	...	...	...	...	...	...	206	206	7	72·5
Melling	...	1	...	...	154	...	...	155	154	83·3
North Meols	...	...	...	1	...	...	332	333	7	80·8
Rufford	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	24	14·8
Scarisbrick	...	...	...	...	...	...	190	190	5	43·6
Simonswood	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	36	0	53·7
Tarleton	...	...	...	401	...	...	...	401	66	99·5
Totals for District	24	1	109	570	190	87	2903	3885	449	73·8

WATER ANALYSIS.

The late Medical Officer of Health analysed 41 samples of water upon which he reports :—

I analysed 41 samples of water. One from a well in Maghull was good, though not first class, and another from a tank in Tarleton was a fair sample of rain water. Five samples of well water from Aughton, Downholland, Formby, Halsall, and Tarleton, were usable, but 1 from Ainsdale, 1 from Downholland, 16 from Formby, 2 from Halsall, 4 from Hesketh, 1 from Rufford, 3 from Scarisbrick, and 5 from Tarleton, were so polluted as to be unfit for domestic use.

A sample from the wet quarry at Hill House, Altcar, contained too much organic matter to be suitable for domestic use. The large quantity of manure stored in the vicinity (in contravention of your Bye-laws), is responsible for this. It is a pity that this should be so, as the large quantity of water continually entering it from springs, and the elevated position of the quarry appeared to offer an advantageous opportunity of supplying the greater part of the township.

Your present Medical Officer of Health analysed 14 samples of water, and found that 1 in Formby, 1 in Lydiate, and 1 in Scarisbrick, were very bad; 1 in Aughton, 1 in Maghull, and 4 in Scarisbrick, were unfit for domestic use; 1 in Maghull, and 3 in Scarisbrick, were usable; and 1 in Rufford was a good water.

SEWERAGE.

AUGHTON.—The South Aughton Sewage Disposal Works were opened on April 5th, and the first connection with the main was made on April 9th. The North Aughton Works are also completed, with the exception of some small portions of the main sewers with which your engineer is not quite satisfied. There are now 117 houses connected with the new sewers.

Dr. Peck advised that the houses lying between Christ Church and Royal Oak, about 40 in number, should have the advantages of a sewer. Nothing has, as yet, been done in connection with the question.

BICKERSTAFFE.—The sanction of the Local Government Board having been obtained, three lengths of sewers were laid, viz. :—In Railway Path, Elm Place, and Alty's Lane, into which 27 houses discharge. The Ormskirk Urban District Council entered into an agreement with you, to take the sewage upon the same terms as that of the northern part of Aughton.

FORMBY.—The question of sewering this township has advanced considerably during the year. The Parochial Committee invited competitors to send in plans and estimates for a scheme suitable for sewering the district. Prizes were offered for the schemes that would be considered most suitable, and J. T. Wood, Esq., Sanitary Engineer of Liverpool, was appointed in December, to examine the various plans sent in, and to adjudicate upon them. The Committee is now awaiting his awards before proceeding further with the matter.

THE CESSPOOL SYSTEM.

This system while it has many defects, is still the most suitable for a district which is too flat to allow of general subsoil irrigation, therefore in most of the sparsely populated parts of the District, no other system of sewage disposal is available. Where a neighbourhood is thickly populated, the Cesspool System has many and great disadvantages, aud every effort should be made to do away with them. The rate that is levied to meet the expense of a sewage scheme, becomes a less charge on the individual, than that of keeping a cesspool clean, and in proper order, in addition to the fact of getting the sewage matter away from the premises.

SCAVENGING.

The arrangement that was made by the Aughton Parochial Committee in 1897, for the scavenging of the northern portion of the township still holds good. It would be advisable to extend the system to the southern portion also, and it would be very much appreciated by a large number of the inhabitants.

The Formby Parochial Committee continued the arrangements that were made the previous year in respect to emptying ashpits and privies. The system has been found to work well, and contracts have been entered into for the coming year.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.

Five houses have been condemned during the year as unfit for human habitation, viz. :—One in Altcar, one in Formby, one in Scarisbrick, and two in Tarleton.

Your late Medical Officer advocated that the question of building cottages under this Act should be considered seriously by you, and his views are shared by some of the members of the Council. It is a course that should not be entered on without great deliberation, though there is no doubt that certain townships would benefit greatly by the erection of suitable dwellings to replace many that are scarcely fit for human habitation, but at the same time the tenants must continue to occupy them, as no better houses are available.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal proceedings were taken by Mr. Peach on four occasions, particulars of which will be found on pages pages 48 and 49.

Mr. Bond also took proceedings on three occasions, particulars of which will be found on pages 53 and 59.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

These acts are administered by the County Police, and we are indebted to Superintendents Jervis, of Ormskirk, and Norris, of Chorley, for supplying the following information:—In the part of the district lying within the West Derby Hundred 28 samples were taken and sent to the Analyst Convictions were obtained in 2 cases, viz.:—One of milk and one of rum. No samples were purchased in the townships lying in the Leyland Hundred.

SYSTEMATIC VISITING.

This has been made during the year, and is practically always going on.

BUILDING OPERATIONS.

Mr. C. S. Beeston, C.E., Surveyor for Aughton, Bickerstaffe, Downholland, Halsall, Lydiate, Maghull, Melling, and Simonswood; Mr. Wm. Milner, Surveyor for Bispham, Hesketh, North Meols, Rufford, Scarisbrick, and Tarleton; and Mr. J. Havelock Sutton, Surveyor for Ainsdale, Altcar, and Formby, have kindly informed me that plans were passed during the year as follows:—

Aughton.

New Houses	16
Additions to Houses	13
New Drains	193
Total	222

Ainsdale.

New Houses	11
Additions to Houses	2
New Stables and Outbuildings ...	2
Total	15

Bickerstaffe.

New Houses	4
New Drains	27
Total	31

Formby.

New Houses	16
New Shops and Houses	4
New Stable and Outbuildings... ...	4
Additions to Houses	9
Additions to Shops	3
Additions to Chapels, Schools, &c....	4
Total	40

Hesketh.

New Houses	4
Additions to Houses	3
Total	7

Maghull.

Addition to House	1
New Outbuildings	5
Total	6

North Meols.

New Houses	4

Rufford.

New School	1

Tarleton.

New Houses	27
New Shop	1
Additions to Houses	5
New Stables and Outbuildings ...	6
Total	39

Appended are :—

(1)—Tables A and B of the Local Government Board.
(2)—Table C of the County Council of Lancaster.
(3)—Inspector Peach's Annual Report.
(4)—Inspector Bond's Annual Report.
(5)—The Annual Report on Canal Boats.
(6)—A Copy of the Rules and Regulations to be observed in the management of Infectious Diseases.
(7)—A Map showing the Water Mains laid on in the District.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

HERBERT PECK,
M.B., C.M., Edin., D.P.H. Camb.,

and

GEORGE EDWARD SCHOLEFIELD,
M.D., Edin., D.P.H., Vict.

Table C. COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1898.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF WEST LANCASHIRE.

Area in Statute Acres—68,614. *Population* (*Census*) 1891—25,684.
Population, Estimated, 1898—27,541.

Names of Medical Officer of Health—

HERBERT PECK, M.B. Edin., D.P.H. Camb.
To Sept. 29th. *Salary*—£350.

GEORGE EDWARD SCHOLEFIELD, M.D., Edin., D.P.H. Vict.
From November 3rd. *Salary*—£300.

Births Registered { Male ...344 / Female 309 } Total, 653.

Deaths Registered { Male ...208 / Female 174 } Total, 382.

Birth Rate—23·71. Death Rate—13·29, Rate of Infant Deaths, under one year, to 1000, Births—118.

Death Rate from the *seven principal* Zymotic Diseases, per 1,000 of population—1·12.

Diseases prevalent ?—Measles.

Period ?—Spring and Summer.

What Action taken ?—See report. Any Schools closed ?—Four. If so, for what Disease ?—Measles and Influenza.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation ?—See report, page 18.

Is it Joint or otherwise ? Joint.

No. of Beds available for the District ?—Ten.

What were the Cases treated ?—Twenty-three of Scarlet Fever, and two of Enteric Fever.

Deaths in Hospital—None.

How is Disinfection carried out ?—See report, page 18.

Apparatus used ?—See report.

Is the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act in force ?—Yes.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Act notifiable (for instance Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa, &c.) ?—No.

What is the character of House Accommodation ?—Good on the whole. In some places bad. See report, page 25.

Has any action been taken under "The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890" ?—Yes; see below.

Have any houses condemned as unfit for human habitation been closed or demolished ? If so, how many ?—Yes, one house in Altcar, and two in Tarleton.

Is the Water Supply good and subject to your inspection ?—Good on the whole. None but the Company's servants are admitted to the premises of the Southport Waterworks Company.

Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily ? By Sanitary Authority or Contract ?—No. See report, page 25.

How is the Refuse disposed of ?—By householders, except in the township of Formby and the northern watershed of Aughton.

What is the character of Drainage and the form of Sewage Disposal ?—The cesspool system, except in the township of Aughton, and part of the township of Bickerstaffe. See report, pages 23 to 24.

Canal Boats—Very satisfactory. See Canal Boats Report appended.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses ?—Satisfactory at times of visits.

Slaughter Houses ?—Satisfactory at times of visits, except in one case.

Lodging Houses ?—Three. Are they Registered ?—Yes.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected ?—Yes.

What is their condition ?—Fair on the whole.

Are they subject to Regulations made under the Order of the Local Government Board ?—No.

What amount of air space in cubic feet is required for each Cow ? No specified capacity,

Have the Factories and Workshops been inspected, and with what result ?—There are none.

Food unfit for human consumption. Amount seized ?—Eight quarters of beef were seized, and being bad were buried.

Any Special Report of Medical Officer of Health during the year ?—Four on Closing of Schools, and one on the proposed Sewering of Ainsdale.

Department of Inspectors of Nuisances ...
- No. of Notices served—492.
- No. of Nuisances remedied—1084.
- No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result—Four, all with success.

Smoke
- No. of Observations--None.
- No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result—None.
- What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour ?—None.

Has the Authority adopted—(*a*) "The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890" ?—Yes. (*b*) "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890" ?—Yes.

K³ (A)

Table of DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1898, in the West Lancashire Rural District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (See note 4 on back of sheet.) (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.) (a)	Mortality from all Causes at subjoined Ages. At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5 (d)	5 and under 15 (e)	15 and under 25 (f)	25 and under 65 (g)	65 and upwards. (h)	(i)	1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Fevers. Typhus	6 Enteric or Typhoid	7 Contin'd	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12 Measles	13 Whooping Cough	14 Diarrhœa and Dysentery	15 Rheumatic Fever	16 Phthisis	17 Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	18 Heart Disease	19 Influenza	20 Injuries	21 All other Diseases	22 Total.
AINSDALE	9	1	...	...	...	2	6	Under 5																					1	1
								5 upwards						1											1	1			5	8
ALTCAR	3	...	1	.	1	...	1	Under 5						1															0	1
								5 upwards																					2	2
AUGHTON	51	9	6	2	3	12	19	Under 5														1			1				13	15
								5 upwards			1			1			1							2	6	5		1	19	36
BICKERSTAFFE	41	9	2	4	3	10	13	Under 5		1										1		1			3				5	11
								5 upwards												1		1		2	9		1	2	14	30
BISPHAM	8	3	1	...	1	2	1	Under 5																					3	3
								5 upwards																1	1	1			2	5
DOWNHOLLAND	4	1	..	...	1	1	1	Under 5																		1				1
								5 upwards														1						1	1	3
FORMBY	66	10	7	1	5	21	22	Under 5			1														3				12	17
								5 upwards						2									1	4	2	9	2	3	26	49
HALSALL	11	1	...	...	1	6	3	Under 5																					1	1
								5 upwards						1										1	3	1	1	...	3	10
HESKETH	16	5	3	3	...	3	2	Under 5				1									3				1				3	8
								5 upwards			1														2		1	1	3	8
LYDIATE	16	4	...	...	1	3	8	Under 5														1							3	4
								5 upwards														2		1		3		2	4	12
MAGHULL	24	6	...	1	2	10	5	Under 5														1							5	6
								5 upwards			1													5				4	8	18
MELLING	14	4	1	2	1	5	1	Under 5																	1				4	5
								5 upwards											1	1				1		2		2	2	9
NORTH MEOLS	31	9	3	...	3	10	6	Under 5													1	1			6			1	3	12
								5 upwards																2	3	6	2		6	19
RUFFORD	15	4	1	...	1	3	6	Under 5													2								3	5
								5 upwards																1					9	10
SCARISBRICK	28	6	2	...	2	10	8	Under 5												1		1			1				5	8
								5 upwards											1			1			5	3		1	9	20
SIMONSWOOD	3	1	1	...	...	...	1	Under 5				1																	1	2
								5 upwards																					1	1
TARLETON	24	7	3	1	...	8	5	Under 5												1					2				7	10
								5 upwards																	3	2	1		8	14
EPILEPTIC HOME, MAGHULL	4	...	...	...	2	2	...	Under 5																						
								5 upwards																					4	4
SHAFTESBURY HOUSE LUNATIC ASYLUM, FORMBY	9	...	...	...	2	3	4	Under 5																					0	
								5 upwards																					9	9
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Under 5																					0	
								5 upwards																					0	
SOUTHPORT FEVER HOSPITAL, NORTH MEOLS	5	...	...	3	1	1	...	Under 5																					0	
								5 upwards		2				3															0	5
Totals	382	80	31	17	30	112	112	Under 5		1	1	2		1						3	6	7			18	1		1	69	110
								5 upwards		2	3			8			1		2	2		5	1	20	35	33	8	17	135	272

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality. *See Note 5 on back.*

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	12	...	...	...	1	5	6	Under 5																						
								5 upwards																4	1	1	1		5	12
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto	10	...	...	1	3	6	...	Under 5																						
								5 upwards																				9	1	10

NOTES ON TABLES **A** AND **B.**

NOTE 1. *Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.*

2. *Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.*

3. *The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading, according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.*

4. The "*Localities*" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships or wards.

As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

5. *The deaths which have to be classified in this Table* (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals," are the whole of those *registered* as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, *e.g.*, the institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres, 68,614.

Population (Last Census), 25,684.

,, (Estimated to middle of 1898), 27,541.

Death Rates.	General, 13·29	per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1898.
	Infant (under one year of age), 118	per 1000 Births Registered.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables **A** and **B**, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD, *Medical Officer of Health.*

(*Date*) January 26th, 1899.

K² 11. (B) Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the West Lancashire Rural District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

Naes of Localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (See note 2 on back of sheet.) (a)	Population at all Ages: Census 1891 (b)	Population at all Ages: Estimated to middle of 1896. (c)	Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the Knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health: 1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membran's Croup.	5 Fevers. Typhus	6 Fevers. Enteric or Typh'd	7 Fevers. C'ntin'd	8 Fevers. Relapsing	9 Fevers. Puerperal	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12 Me'sles, not notifiable	13 Wh'g Co'gh, not notif'le	Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital: 1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membran's Croup	5 Fevers. Typhus	6 Fevers. Enteric or Typh'd	7 Fevers. C'ntin'd	8 Fevers. Relapsing	9 Fevers. Puerperal	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12	13
AINSDALE	1100	1272	29	Under 5																										
				5 upwards		2				4									2											
ALTCAR	599	561	10	Under 5						1						1														
				5 upwards		1				1						3							1							
AUGHTON (H)	3456	3658	105	Under 5		2													1											
				5 upwards		3	4			3			1		1	6	5		2											
BICKERSTAFFE	2178	2098	60	Under 5		10										31			2											
				5 upwards		9									1	23			6											
BISPHAM	259	275	11	Under 5																										
				5 upwards		8																								
DOWNHOLLAND	771	782	15	Under 5																										
				5 upwards		1										1														
FORMBY	4844	5642	109	Under 5		3	3			2									1											
				5 upwards		3	3			9					2	2	2		1											
HALSALL	1264	1353	30	Under 5																										
				5 upwards						3																				
HESKETH	933	949	22	Under 5				1									3													
				5 upwards			1																							
LYDIATE	1079	1143	27	Under 5		2										3														
				5 upwards		6	1			3						13							1							
MAGHULL	1422	1525	41	Under 5		2																								
				5 upwards		3	1			1																				
MELLING	915	1033	23	Under 5												6														
				5 upwards		1				1					2	6			1											
NORTH MEOLS (H)	1620	1827	55	Under 5												1	2													
				5 upwards		4									3	1	2													
RUFFORD	816	802	20	Under 5													2													
				5 upwards																										
SCARISBRICK	2237	2330	47	Under 5		1										2														
				5 upwards		2	4								3	1														
SIMONSWOOD	426	438	5	Under 5			1																							
				5 upwards		1																								
TARLETON	1772	1853	44	Under 5												1														
				5 upwards																										
ST. ANNE'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, FORMBY	—	—	—	Under 5																										
				5 upwards		9													5											
West Lancashire R. D. Totals	25684	27541	653	Under 5		20	4	1		3						45	7		4											
				5 upwards		53	14			25			1		12	56	9		17				2							

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District—*Yes*. Since when?—*January 1st*, 1890. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated. *Holly House, Aughton, and Southport Isolation Hospital, North Meols.* (See Report.)

NOTES ON TABLE **B.**

(See also Notes on back of Table **A.**)

NOTE 1. The present *Table B.* is concerned with population, births, and sickness (not with mortality) in the district or division to which the Table relates.

2. As stated in the heading of Col. (*a*), *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the new cases of sickness in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received, are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

3. *Comments on any unequal incidence of notifiable disease upon the several localities, and considerations as to the local incidence of consumption and other prevalent diseases, should be made in the text of the Report.*

REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES, 1898,

OF THE

WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to submit my eighteenth Annual Report for the fifteen townships comprising my district, which is for the year ending 31st December, 1898, for the purpose of laying the same before the above-named Council, showing in detail the number of matters dealt with in each township as they have come under my notice, viz. :—

The number of Nuisances from various sources.

Water Certificates under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

Other supplies under the Public Health Act, 1875.

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

Registered Common Lodging Houses.

Bakehouses.

Registered Slaughterhouses.

Inspection of Meat.

Registration under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885.

Legal Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 91, Sub. Sec. (1).

Legal Proceedings under Public Health (Water) Act, 1875, Sec. 62.

Legal Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 306.

Legal Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 70.

And Number of Notices served.

I am again pleased to report it has not been necessary to take rain water supplies into consideration, owing to the large extensions of public service in the district. Each new house has been provided with a supply of wholesome water from public service, prior to water certificates being granted, 70 in number.

It will be seen on the reading of my report that the want of water for domestic use has received great attention.

During the year it has again been necessary to request owners of property, under the Public Health Act, 1875, to provide an available supply of wholesome water for domestic use for the inmates of 99 dwellings.

Out of that number 76 were available to public service at the time of notice and 23 required an extension of main.

The very kind attention of the Southport Company and their engineer (Mr. S. J. Rofe) has again been shewn by the large extensions of mains on the application being made for required supplies of water. $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile 238 yards has been laid in three townships, and further extensions are contemplated in the same number of townships during the next year.

The number of water supplies in my district from public service for the year 1898 was 2,625, an increase of 397 in *thirteen* townships and a decrease of *one* each in *two* townships, showing the total increase to be 395.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.

One application has been made for registration and on the premises being made to comply with the Act, registration was granted. Other premises have been visited and found satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

These premises have been found satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

Proceedings taken in two cases for non-compliance to provide water supply, one for obstruction and one for the purpose of closing a well.

REMOVAL OF PRIVY AND ASHPIT REFUSE.

Such removal has been continued in the Northern area of one township, which has been the means of premises being found in a much cleaner state.

BYE-LAWS.

Referring to my Annual Report of 1896, in which I stated bye-laws were required for the whole district, I am now pleased to state that such bye-laws are now in force.

I have again been successful in having a large number of matters dealt with by owners and occupiers without formal notices being served.

On applications being made to the Council for extension of time wherein to furnish the necessary provisions, the same has been allowed; failing to comply with notices legal proceedings were taken and proved successful.

The table hereafter will show at a glance, in detail, the total number of matters dealt with, and notices served in each township.

TOWNSHIP OF ALTCAR.

Nuisances.

Earth closets defective and filthy	4
Cesspools defective, no ventilation and overflow attached ...	2
Sink waste pipes untrapped	4
Want of ventilation to W.C.'s....	2
Privy dilapidated and want of ashpit	2
Want of drain for house refuse	1
Boundary brook in a foul state	1
	16
Notices served	6

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.—The number of supplies for the year 1898 from the Southport Company was 4, which are obtained through a branch pipe connected with the Company's main at the boundary of the adjoining township (Formby), showing a decrease of 1, the dwelling having been closed as unfit for human habitation.

TOWNSHIP OF AUGHTON.

NUISANCES.

Want of water for domestic use	2
Enclosed yards filthy from sewage matter	13
Privies and ashpits dilapidated, deficient, and filthy	52
Pigs kept so as to be a nuisance	2
Privies and ashpits filthy	29
Deficient drainage for house refuse	121
Catchpit in scullery filthy	1
Ditches in a filthy state...	2
Deposit of sewage in contravention of Bye-laws	1
Roof of dwelling and washhouse dilapidated...	2
Cesspools open, dilapidated, and filthy	8
Middenstead deficient, causing road to be filthy	1
Gutter in a filthy state	1
Sewage overflowing from manhole on road	1
Boundary brook polluted with sewage	1
Privy abutting dwelling filthy	1
Drains defective and inspection chambers filthy	2
Want of privies and ashpits	3
Dwelling-houses in a dilapidated state...	6
Deficient drainage from want of sewerage extension... ...	31
	280

PUBLIC HEALTH (WATER) ACT, 1878.

WATER.—Certificates have been granted in respect of the following new houses, the supplies being from the Southport Water Company 3

BAKEHOUSE 1

These premises have been kept in a cleanly state during the year.

REGISTERED SLAUGHTER HOUSE 1

Premises found in a satisfactory state at the time of visits.

TOWN END SEWER.

SEWERAGE.—The Manholes and Mud-baskets have been cleaned out and the length of sewer flushed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.

Application for Registration 1

On visiting the premises the same were found to be in want of light, ventilation, drainage, and space. On the same being provided, registration was granted as cowkeeper and purveyor of milk.

DISEASED MEAT.—Eight quarters of beef being found in a decomposed state, the same were seized and buried ... 8

ORDER FOR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS for contravention of the Public Health Act, 1875, and Notices served 1

It was not necessary to take such proceedings, the work being completed before the time allowed expired.

Notices served 113

SANITARY STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP.—SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

SOUTHERN AREA.—In my last Annual Report I stated it had been necessary for me to report upon the bad state of a portion of this district from want of an extension of the sewerage, which I recommend to the Committee. I regret very much that at each meeting during the year I have had to report nuisances still

existing, and during the hot weather the offensive state of some premises. I reported the same to be most dangerous to the health of the inmates, and again recommended the extension of the sewerage system for this area.

NORTHERN AREA.—It is not necessary for me to report hereon, as a full report will be furnished by the Engineer.

REMOVAL OF PRIVY AND ASHPIT REFUSE (NORTHERN AREA).

The contractor for the removal of the above refuse has continued to remove the same to the end of the year, although his contract expired in July last. Since the removal of such refuse has been done by contract the premises have been found in a much cleaner state, especially where the area is contracted, and I would recommend the continuance of such removal by contract.

WATER SUPPLIES.—The number of supplies for the year 1898, from the Southport Co. was 567, and from the Ormskirk Urban Council 65, making the total number 632, including 3, for which Water Certificates have been granted to new houses, showing an increase of 4 for the year. The Southport Co. have again extended their main, on application being made for the purpose of providing water for domestic use 524 yards in length.

TOWNSHIP OF BICKERSTAFFE.

NUISANCES.

Privies and Ashpits in a filthy state	21
Cesspools dilapidated and overflowing...	11
Premises in a foul state...	5
Drain stoppage	3
Sewage discharged into ditch and boundary brook	3
	43

Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

Water.—Certificate has been granted in respect of the following new houses, the supply being from the Ormskirk Urban Council's service 2

Bakehouses 2

The premises have been kept in a cleanly state during the year.

Notices served 43

Sewerage.—Referring to my last Annual Report in which I stated the difficulty of sewage disposal at premises adjoining the boundary of the Ormskirk Council, and recommended a connection therefrom with the said Council's sewer. The Local Government Board stated an inquiry into the matter would be held, which took place on the 4th day of February, 1898. Such connection was subsequently granted by the Local Government Board, and the various lengths of sewer have been laid, 32 premises being connected therewith up to date, 13 further dwellings are awaiting connection, which I expect to be carried out as early as possible.

Public Water Supplies.—There are 135 supplies in this town ship from such service, including 2, for which water certificates have been granted to new houses, showing an increase for the year of 51. The supplies being as follows, viz. :—

Skelmersdale Urban Council	87
Ormskirk Urban Council	44
Southport Waterworks Company	4
	135

With respect to the increased number of water supplies from the Skelmersdale Urban Council and the Southport Co.'s service

the Earl of Derby has, I am informed, defrayed the entire expense of laying the separate lengths of main, about 4,500 yards, also the fittings on premises supplied.

TOWNSHIP OF BISPHAM.

Nuisances.

Want of Drains for house refuse	20
Privies dilapidated, defective, abutting dwellings, &c. ...	18
Open middens in a filthy state...	3
Ditches filthy	4
Cesspools or catchpits defective, too near dwellings, &c. ...	8
Ashpits defective and filthy	2
Pigs kept so as to be a nuisance	1
Premises in a filthy state	1
Boundary brook polluted from adjoining township, W. R. D. C.	1
Total	58
Notices served	30

TOWNSHIP OF DOWNHOLLAND.

Nuisances.

Want of Water for domestic use	13
Want of Drains for house refuse	2
	15
Notices served	15

Public Water Supplies.—The number of supplies for the year 1898 from the Southport Company is 95, an increase of 8; and for the purpose of supply during the year the Company have laid 1,463 yards in length, the same being required for 16 supplies, 9 of which are awaiting the connection of main over the canal bridge.

TOWNSHIP OF HALSALL.

Nuisances.

Drainage deficient and stopped	1
Cesspools overflowing, surroundings filthy	3
Privies and ashpits deficient, open middens filthy	2
	6

Notices served	2

Public Water Supplies.—The number of supplies for the year 1898 from the Southport Company was 121, showing a decrease of 1.

TOWNSHIP OF HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL.

Nuisances.

Want of water for domestic use	17
Privies and ashpits dilapidated, defective, and filthy... ...	7
Drain stoppage, premises in a filthy state	3
Cesspool defective and filthy	1
	28

Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

Water.—Certificates have been granted in respect of the following new houses, the supplies being from the Council's service	3

Notices served	19

Public Health Act, 1875, "Sec. 62."

Order made for work to be done if owners failed in 14 days	9

In one case the owner did not comply with notice to provide water supply, therefore the work was done and application made for the cost thereof, which was subsequently paid.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.—In this township *one* farm as previously reported receives its supply from the Southport Company by a special branch connected with the said Company's main in the adjoining township, and the supplies for the year from the Council's service being 168, showing the number of houses supplied from public service to be 169, including 3 for which water certificates have been granted to new houses, an increase for the year of 56.

TOWNSHIP OF LYDIATE.

NUISANCES.

Want of water for domestic use	4
Want of drain for house refuse	1
Privy and ashpit deficient and filthy	1
Ditch in a filthy state	1
Accumulation and deposit of manure in contravention of Bye-laws	13
	20
Notices served	16
BAKEHOUSE	1

These premises have been kept in a cleanly state during the

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.—The number of supplies for the year 1898 from the Southport Company was 124, showing an increase of 15 on the year.

TOWNSHIP OF MAGHULL.

Want of water for domestic use	12
Want of drains for house refuse	5
Privies and ashpits dilapidated, deficient, filthy, &c. ...	23

Want of gully trap to drains	4
Cellar flooded, water stagnant and filthy	1
Dwelling, washhouse and pantry dilapidated, without ventilation, &c....	2
Windows dilapidated, causing dampness	2
Want of privy and ashpit	2
Gutter defective and in a filthy state	1
Slopping manure on road in contravention of bye-laws ...	1
Waste-pipe connected with drain	1
Cesspool too near dwelling, and defective	1
Privies and ashpits filthy	16
Movable receptacle to privy, dilapidated, floor filthy ...	1
Yard pavement dilapidated, and in a filthy state	1
	73
Notices served	53
BAKEHOUSE	1

These premises have been found in a satisfactory state at the time of visits.

ORDER FOR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS in contravention of the Public Health Act, 1875. If work not done in 7 days 4

In each case the owner complied with notice, therefore proceedings were not taken.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875, "SEC. 62."

If water not on in 7 days 1

Owner failed to comply, therefore a supply was provided, and on application being made for the cost, the same was remitted.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.—The number of supplies from the Company's service for the year 1898 was 206, showing an

increase of 7 on the year. I again found it necessary to apply to the Southport Company for an extension of their main for the purpose of two supplies, which they were kind enough to do, a distance of 449 yards in length.

TOWNSHIP OF MELLING.

Nuisances.

Want of water for domestic use	21
Want of drains for house refuse	2
Privies defective, ashpit and catchpit deficient and filthy ...	4
Pigs kept so as to be a nuisance	2
Middenstead defective, yard filthy	1
Boundary brook polluted from adjoining township, S. R. D. C.	1
	31
Notices served	10

Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

Water.—Certificates have been granted in respect of the following new houses, the supply being from the Council's service. 23

Public Water Supplies.—The number of supplies being 155, including 20 for which certificates have been granted in respect of new houses, the source of such supplies, as follows, viz. :—154 from the new service laid by the Council during the year 1898. *One* house still receives its supply from the Liverpool Corporation, at the boundary of the township.

As a number of the residents object to having a supply put on from such service, it will be necessary to visit the premises and inquire where the inmates obtain their present supply, also as to the quality of such supply at an early date.

The length of water main laid in the township by the Council is 13,380 yards in length, and the length of large main laid by the St. Helen's Corporation for the purpose of supplying the water into the township is about 2,100 yards from the Kirby Pumping Station to the meter at Melling.

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH MEOLS (Rural).

Nuisances.

Want of Water for domestic use	1
Privies and Ashpits in a filthy state	8
Cesspool overflowing, surroundings filthy	1
	10

Notices served	9

Bakehouse	1

Satisfactory during the year.

Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

Water.—Certificates have been granted in respect of the following new houses, the supplies being from the Southport Company's Water 7

Public Water Supplies.—The number of public supplies for the year 1898 was 333, including 7 for which certificates have been granted to new houses, showing an increase of 7 for the year, the supplies are as follows:—

Southport Waterworks Company	332
Council's service	1
	333

TOWNSHIP OF RUFFORD.

Nuisances.

Want of drains for house refuse	4
Privies and ashpits dilapidated, deficient, and filthy	2
Want of privy and ashpit	1
Deposit of house refuse on road	1
	8
Notices served	6

Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

Application to temporarily occupy under the above Act, awaiting completion of supply	1

Public Water Supplies.—The branch watermain referred to in my last Report has been completed during the year by Mr. Ogilvy, agent to Sir T. F. Hesketh, the supplies taken therefrom up to date are 24, the cost of such has been paid by Mr. Ogilvy. The length of the said main which has been laid is 3,684 yards, and about 90 yards of a further length is contemplated.

TOWNSHIP OF SCARISBRICK.

Nuisances.

Want of water for domestic use	3
Want of drains for house refuse	11
Privies, ashpits, and catchpits dilapidated, deficient, and filthy	11
Roofs of dwelling-houses dilapidated	2
Yard pavement dilapidated and filthy...	1
Ditch filthy	1
Privy and receptacle too near and filthy	1
Open middens in a filthy state...	4
Pigs kept so as to be a nuisance	4
	38
Notices served	17

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

Premises closed under the above Act 1

BAKEHOUSE 1

Premises found in a cleanly state at the time of visits.

PUBLIC HEALTH (WATER) ACT, 1878.

WATER.—Certificate has been granted to *one* new house, the supply being from the Southport Company 1

Application for temporary occupation awaiting an extension of the Company's main 6

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.—The number of supplies for the year 1898 from the Southport Company's service was 190 including one for which a water certificate was granted, an increase of 5 on the year. The said Company have laid an extension of main in this township, 782 yards in length, so as to provide further supplies.

TOWNSHIP OF SIMONSWOOD.

NUISANCES.

I have again to report for this township that no case of complaint has come under my notice, neither has any complaint been made.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.—The number of supplies for the year 1898, from the St. Helens Corporation was ... 36

TOWNSHIP OF TARLETON.

NUISANCES.

Want of water for domestic use 26
Want of drains for house refuse 6
Privies, ashpits, and catchpits dilapidated, deficient, and filthy 7
Roof and walls of dwelling-house dilapidated 1
Cellar flooded, stagnant water in a foul state... 1

Privy abutting dwelling-house filthy	1
Ditch filthy	1
	43
Notices served	30

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

Premises closed under the above Act	2
REGISTERED COMMON LODGING-HOUSES	3

These premises have again been kept in a cleanly state and free from infectious disease during the year.

Bakehouses	2

These premises have been found in a cleanly state at the time of visits.

PUBLIC HEALTH (WATER) ACT, 1878.

WATER.—Certificates have been granted in respect of the following new houses, the supplies being from the public service: 31

ORDER FOR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS for contravention of the Public Health Act, 1875, and notices served 1

In this case the proceedings were not necessary the work being done before the specified time (14 days) expired.

ORDER FOR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS under "Sec. 62" of the Public Health Act, 1875.

If work not done and water supply provided in 14 days ... 7

In *four* cases the Owners provided the required supply, therefore it was not necessary to do the work.

The following *three* cases were dealt with as follows:—

1st. The work was done and supply turned on, and application made to the Owner for the cost, which he refused to pay

proceedings were taken to recover the amount. On the case being heard the Bench made an order for the payment thereof and costs, £4 13s. 6d. altogether.

2nd. On proceeding to the work for the purpose of supplying the premises with water, the Owner (who is also occupier) so obstructed that it was impossible to proceed with the work. Proceedings were taken by order of the Council under Sec. 306, when the Bench inflicted a penalty with costs, £3 1s. 10d. Application was then made under Sec. 70 for the closure of Well, which was granted. On the case being heard the Magistrates made an order that the water in the said Well "Shall not be used, either for domestic use, dairy purposes, "or the watering of cows," with costs £1 14s. 0d.; also "that a supply of water be put on from public service for "domestic use," which was subsequently done by Owner.

3rd. In this case the Owner admitted the want of a wholesome supply of water, but objected on account of the distance from the Main, 293 yards, the cost being £19 10s. 5d., and paid £13 as provided by Sec. 3, P.H.A., 1878, to be the maximum amount recoverable by the Council. Proceedings were taken for the balance of account, £6 10s. 5d. On the case being heard the Bench dismissed the case on a point of law, but granted a case for argument before the High Court. On the appeal being heard by the Justices sitting as a Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench division, they decided in favour of the Council with costs.

The defective plumbing work referred to in my last Annual Report, which the Council ordered to be removed on account of the Owner declining so to do. The cost of such work was subsequently paid without proceedings been necessary for the recovery of such cost.

Public Water Supplies.—The number of supplies for the year 1898, from public service was 401, including 31 for which water certificates have been granted to new houses, showing an increase on the year of 66.

I now give in Table Form the total number of matters dealt with in each Township as stated in the foregoing part of my Report.

Townships.	Number of matters from various sources.	Water Certificates granted under Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.	Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890.	Registered Common Lodging Houses.	Bakehouses.	Registered Slaughter-houses.	Inspection of Meat (Beef)	Registration under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885.	Legal Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 366. (Obstruction.)	Legal Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 70. (Closure of Well)	Legal Proceedings under Public Health (Water) Act, 1875, Sec. 62.	Number of Notices served.	Totals.
Altcar	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	22
Aughton	280	3	...	...	1	1	8	1	...	...	...	113	407
Bickerstaffe	43	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	90
Bispham	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	88
Downholland	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	30
Halsall	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8
Hesketh-with-Becconsall	28	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	50
Lydiate	20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	37
Maghull	73	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	127
Melling	31	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	64
North Meols (Rural)	10	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	27
Rufford	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	14
Scarisbrick	38	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	58
Simonswood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tarleton	43	31	2	3	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	30	115
	669	70	3	3	9	1	8	1	1	1	2	369	1137

I beg to thank for kind favours during the year.

Yours truly,

JAMES PEACH, Sanitary Inspector.

Geo. E. Scholefield, Esq., D.P.H., M.O.H.

To Dr. George E. Scholefield, M.D.,D.P.H., *Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District Council of West Lancashire.*

Sir,

I beg to annex my first Annual Report showing in detail the Sanitary Work carried out during the year for the Townships of Formby and Ainsdale.

FORMBY.

Public Health (Water) Act.

Water.—Certificates have been granted in respect of the following new houses, the supplies being from the Southport Water Company's mains 17

Well Water.

Samples of well water taken 14
Wells condemned and Company's water placed thereon ... 10

In one case the water not having been placed on in time allowed, I had the same laid on premises and charged owner with costs, which were immediately paid.

Shippons and Dairies.

These have been constantly visited, and found in a cleanly state.

Number of shippons and dairies 28
Registered as dairies and cowsheds 2

Smoke Testing.

The smoke test has been applied to a number of house drains during the year, with good results.

Bakehouses.

These premises have been kept in a cleanly state, and in accordance with the regulations of the Act during the year.

Registered Slaughter Houses.

With the exception of premises in one case they were found satisfactory.

Housing of the Working Classes' Act, 1890.

Under the above Act one house was condemned owing to its dangerous state. Further action was unnecessary as owner pulled premises down and re-erected a substantial dwelling.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1875.

Under the 120th section owner of premises was served with notice to scrape paper off walls and wash and disinfect ceilings.

Notices served 2

Registered Common Lodging Houses.

I am glad to state that at the present time there are none in this Township.

Notices served	69
Water notices	10
	79

Ashpit Emptying.

On December 22nd, 1897, a much needed improvement took place by the acceptance of a Tender for Ashpit Emptying. This has obviated many nuisances which formerly existed, and premises when now visited are in a much more cleanly state.

At first the system was for emptying Ashpits only, but this has gradually extended to the emptying of Pail Closets.

The system of emptying is by Contract, for twelve months only, and at the rate of 3/- per Ashpit, and 4d. per Pail Closet.

A separate Contract was entered into on April 13th for emptying a Block of 32 Houses, known as the "Willow Grove Contract."

	£	s.	d.
687 Ashpits have been emptied at 3/- each.....	103	1	0
319 Pail Closets emptied at 4d.....	5	6	4
Willow Grove Contract	10	4	0
Total.....	£118	11	4

ORDER FOR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS 8

Legal Proceedings were taken in one case only against owner, under Section 91, sub-section 1 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to abate nuisance arising from a flooded roadway, with the result that owner was ordered to abate the nuisance and to pay costs.

DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES.

These have been under constant supervision during the year, and special reports made on their cause of pollution—a public school had a urinal over one—a row of houses indirectly emptied therein in another case.

Some cases were those of pigstyes and premises draining therein.

DETAILED SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR.

TOWNSHIP OF FORMBY.

Privies and ashpits dilapidated and deficient	52
Want of ashpits to premises	13
Defective gully traps removed	17
Houses in a damp and dilapidated condition	9
Want of galvanized iron receptacles to pail closets	11

Water closets in houses unventilated and uncleanly	9
Cesspools overflowing, defective and want of ventilation ...	95
Want of cesspools to premises...	8
Ashpit refuse deposited on roadways	5
Pollution of watercourses by cesspools overflowing therein ...	14
Pigs kept so as to be a nuisance	4
Pan closets removed and washdown closets substituted ...	3
Drains deficient and defective	20
Bath and lavatory discharge pipes untrapped...	13
Defective floor to slaughterhouse	1
Want of galvanized iron receptacles to slaughterhouse for offal and blood	1
Lavatory and bath pipes discharging into dry well	2
Private urinal discharging into dry well	1
Want of suitable receptacles for manure from cattle... ...	3
Lavatory discharging pipe connected into soil pipe	1
Sink discharge pipe choked	1
Rain water cistern overflow connected with drain	1
Defective soil pipes	3
Want of surface drainage to yard	1
Defective floor in pantry in house	1
Removal of gas meter from pantry in house	1
Premises in a filthy state	7
Water cistern removed from bedroom...	1
	298

TOWNSHIP OF AINSDALE.

Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

Water.—Certificates have been granted to the following new houses, the supplies being from the Southport Water Company's mains 2

Bakehouse, 1.

These premises have been found in a cleanly state.

Shippons and Dairies.

When visited these premises have been found cleanly.

Dairies and Cowsheds Order, 1885-6.

Application for registration as a dairy... 1

These premises were found suitable, and registration was therefore granted.

Well Water.

Samples of well water taken 1
Wells condemned and Company's water laid on 1

Legal Proceedings.

Orders for legal proceedings were made in ten cases for contravention of the Public Health Act, 1875. Owners in seven cases completed the work before the time expired by the notice. In three cases summonses were taken out under Sub-section I. of the 91st Section of the Public Health Act, 1875, and the owners ordered to abate the nuisances, and to pay the costs.

Notices served 44

Sewage of the Township.

In the month of June the 267 houses in your Township were inspected by your late medical officer (Dr. Peck) and me, and the conclusions of that report showed the disadvantages of the existing cesspool system, and the want of a good system of sewerage.

TOWNSHIP OF AINSDALE.

Nuisances.

Defective and deficient gulley traps (bell traps) 11
Cesspools dilapidated, deficient and filthy 45
Want of drainage for house refuse 7
Privies and ashpits dilapidated and defective... 6

Deposit of ashpit refuse on roadways	2
Pan closet removed and washdown closet substituted ...	1
Overflow from rain water cistern connected with drain ...	1
Want of galvanized iron receptacles to privies	3
Cespool overflow emptying on to open ground	1
House drains connected with road drains	3
Deposit pit of cesspool filth	1
Privies and ashpits in a filthy state	30
House dwelling dilapidated and damp	1
Want of privy and ashpit	1
Bath discharge pipes emptying into dry wells	2
Foul air shafts to w.c. soil pipes deficient	2
	117

I am,

Yours respectfully,

E. H. BOND.

WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS DURING THE YEAR 1898.

January 10th, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

The *method of inspection* usually adopted by the Inspector is to board the boat when on a voyage, when the occupants are unprepared for his visit, but he also inspects boats which he finds tied up. He receives £10 per annum as *remuneration* for his work.

The *number of boats* inspected during the year was sixty-seven, and the condition of them, and their occupants was satisfactory. The *condition of the boats as to cleanliness* was "remarkably clean" in three cases, "very good" in fifty-eight, "good" in one, "very fair" in four, and "fair" in one. The *condition as to repairs* was "good" in all cases.

There were no infringements of the Acts and Regulations with respect to *Notification of Change of Master, Overcrowding, Cleanliness, Ventilation, Painting, Provision of Water Cask, Removal of Bilge Water, Notification of Infectious Disease, Admittance of Inspector.*

On October 21st, the "Satellite," of Liverpool, owned by Thomas Tyrer, Lathom, *after cabin* registered for four adults was found to have on board, captain, aged 18, sister, aged 20, and boy, aged 13. The Inspector wrote to the owner informing him of this contravention of the Act, receiving an answer that the cause of complaint should be removed.

On November 7th, the "Leo," of Liverpool, owned by Messrs. John Parke and Sons, was found to be without *registered number*, and *place of registration*; also without *certificate* on board. "Caution form" 15 was served on the owners on November 8th. The *certificate* was received by post on November 9th, and on November 23rd notice was received from the Inspector at Bootle, that the other cause of complaint had been remedied.

On November 18th, the "Ellen," of Liverpool, owned by Messrs. Golding, Court, and Leighton, *after cabin*, registered for four adults, was found to have on board, in addition to the Captain, his niece, aged 25, and his son, aged 10. The niece was said "to be only going home." Warning was given that it must not be repeated. The Captain was fined in July, 1896, and again on December 2nd, 1898, for the non-attendance of this son at school.

On December 19th, the "Mary," of Liverpool, owned by Messrs. R. Williams and Sons, was found to have on board the Captain's son, aged 12 years, "said to be only in standard III.," Lathom Park School. The School Attendance Officer was informed thereof.

No *legal proceedings* have been taken during the year.

No *cases of infectious disease* have been discovered.

It was not found necessary to detain any boats for *cleansing and disinfection.*

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD,
Medical Officer of Health.

JAMES PEACH,
Inspector of Canal Boats.

West Lancashire Rural District Council.

GENERAL RULES

TO BE OBSERVED IN THE

MANAGEMENT

OF

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1. The patient should be separated as completely as possible from the other inmates of the house; or, better still, removed to the Isolation Hospital. First cases should always be removed to hospital.

2 Remember that the danger of infection is the same in all cases, whether mild or severe.

3. The sickroom should be made as bare as possible by the removal of all bed-curtains, carpets, and unneccssary articles of furniture.

4. The sickroom should be well ventilated; the windows should be kept partly open when the weather permits, and a fire burning.

5. The door should be kept closed, and a sheet hung over it and kept wet with the disinfectant solution. Disinfectants may be had, free of charge, from the Sanitary Inspectors—Mr. Peach, Ormskirk, and Mr. E. H. Bond, Formby.

6. If possible, the nurse should be one who has had the disease. She should wear washing clothes, and always wash and disinfect her hands and face, and change her shoes and outer clothes after leaving the sickroom.

7. No food or drink which has been in the same room as the patient should be used by anyone else. It should be burned.

8. Plates, cups, spoons, clothes and anything else brought from the sickroom should be placed in disinfectant solution for at least half-an-hour, and afterwards washed in water by themselves.

9. The patient's discharges should be received into a vessel containing a disinfectant. In cases of typhoid fever, the disinfectant should be the perchloride of mercury solution, supplied gratuitously on application to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspectors, and should be used according to the directions printed on the label of each bottle.

10. Pieces of rags should be used instead of handkerchiefs, and burned immediately after use.

11. When scales or crusts form upon the skin, it should be kept well smeared with carbolic oil or grease.

12. No visitors should be allowed.

13. The patient should not be allowed to sleep in the same room as any healthy person until at least a fortnight after apparently complete recovery.

14. The Medical Officer of Health should be informed when the illness is at an end, when a van will be sent to remove the bedding and clothes for disinfection and will afterwards bring them back.

15. The sickroom and its contents must then be disinfected and cleansed. Disinfection should be done as follows :—Close the fire-place, windows and other openings. Take half-a-pound or more of brimstone broken into small pieces and place it on an iron dish or shovel containing live coals, which may be placed over a vessel containing water. Close the door and make it air-tight, and keep it so for at least twelve hours. At the end of that time, open the door and windows, strip the paper from the walls, whitewash the ceiling, and scrub the floor, furniture and woodwork.

16. The whole of the house should be kept well ventilated, clean, and in good sanitary order throughout the illness.

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AUGHTON, near Ormskirk.

PENALTIES.

1. For failing to notify the Medical Officer of Health of cases of any of the the following diseases:—Smallpox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scaratina or Scarlet Fever, and the Fevers known by any of the following names: Typhus, Typhoid, Enteric, Relapsing, Continued, or Puerperal ... ... £2.

2. For entering any street, public place, shop, inn, or public conveyance while in an infectious state ... ... £5.

3. For exposing any infected person in any street, public place, shop, inn, or public conveyance ... ... £5.

4. For giving, lending, transmitting, or exposing any arcticle without disinfection ... ... £5.

5. For casting infected rubbish without previous disinfection into any ashpit or other receptacle for refuse ... ... £5.

6. For ceasing to occupy infected houses or rooms without previous disinfection of them and their contents, or giving notice to the owner of the previous occurrence of infectious disease in them ... ... £10.

7. For making a false statement to an owner or prospective tenant as to there having been within a house or room during a previous period of six weeks any person suffering from an infectious disease ... . £10.

8. For letting any infected room or premises without disinfection to the satisfaction of a qualified medical practitioner ... £20.

9. For making a false statement to a prospective tenant as to there being, or having been within a previous period of six weeks, an infected person in a house or part of a house exposed for hire ... ... Imprisonment with or without hard labour, or £20.

PLAN OF WATER MAINS

WITHIN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD, M.O.H.
C. S. BEESTON, MEM. SAN. INST., SURVEYOR,
1899. ORMSKIRK.

PHILIP SON & NEPHEW, LITHO, LIVERPOOL.